

June 15, 2010

Water Quality Protection Division



Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 32**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: June 15, 2010

Reporting Period: June 14, 2010 1300 – June 15, 2010 1300

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Forecast

- Winds are forecast to be relatively weak (<5 kts) and variable over the next few days, with periods of slightly stronger (6-9 kts) southerly winds. Persistent onshore winds have resulted in northward movement of the slick towards the Mississippi/Alabama barrier islands and the Florida Panhandle. Eastward alongshore currents continue to move the oil east along the Florida coast. Coastal regions between Dauphin Island, AL and Panama City, FL are threatened by shoreline contacts within this forecast period. The Chandeleur Islands, Breton Sound and the Mississippi Delta also continue to be threatened.
- Recent satellite imagery analysis no longer shows the persistent patches of sheen to the S-SE of the main slick. However, scattered sheens and tar balls previously observed in these regions may be getting entrained into the large clockwise eddy (Eddy Franklin) that has pinched off the main Loop Current (LC). Trajectories indicate that most of these sheens will continue to move clockwise in Eddy Franklin. Some oil may be getting entrained into a counterclockwise eddy to the NE of Eddy Franklin. A NESDIS satellite analysis on Saturday night did not report any oil on the West Florida shelf or in the Florida Strait.

Monitoring and Assessment

- Continuing to coordinate with the REOC Environmental Unit on the review of incoming water and sediment quality monitoring data, including results from water samples analyzed for dispersants and sediment toxicity testing results.
- Attending regular meetings and calls with Region 4, HQ, & REOC.
- 1 staff member currently located in 8th floor REOC throughout the day.

Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen and are not projected to be impacted.
- EPA Region 6 is providing the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) daily situation report as well as data summaries as they become available.
- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- Updated the Shoreline Coastal Assessment Team (SCAT) and spill trajectory data.

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NPDES

- Participating in discussions regarding options for addressing the moratorium on drilling as it impacts NPDES Permit GMG290000.
- Participating in discussions on options for disposal/treatment/permitting of oil skimming decant water.
- NPDES Permits and TMDL Branch continues to be available to provide technical assistance as needed.

Coastal Programs

Louisiana Large-Scale Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Construction is expected to begin this week by The Shaw Group, Inc. on the first of six sand berm sections authorized by the New Orleans Corps District (NOD-20) MVN 2010-1066-ETT. Ongoing coordination by OW and Regional Coastal Section staff regarding the monitoring plan, regulatory authorities, and permit conditions. Both berm construction and dredged material stockpile areas were determined to be regulated under the Clean Water Act.

Corps Emergency Authorizations for Coastal Protection Features:

- Coordination is ongoing with the Corps, OW, and Region 4 on a continuing series of emergency authorization requests for incremental work to install booms, sand bags, tiger dams, concrete blocks, and similar structures in the Chandeleur Sound, Barataria Bay, Terrebonne Bay, and adjoining waterways.

OW Ecological Impact Analyses:

- Ongoing internal discussions regarding the application of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (ocean dumping) to various oil skimming and disposal operations. During a conference on June 13, 2010, BP clarified that there currently are no plans to transport onshore processed decanted water back into vessels for offshore discharge but they would like to keep the option open. Accordingly, Stan Meiburg (Region 4 DA) emphasized that an MPRSA permit would be needed for such an operation. A follow up conference call between Regions 4 & 6, OW, and OGC is scheduled for June 15th.
- Discussions continue regarding the marsh protection and marsh remediation alternatives and techniques.
- Ongoing coordination, through OW, with the Association of National Estuary Programs and NEP Directors regarding baseline characterization data, habitat and restoration

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priorities, and a request to OWOW to provide a bridge between the NRDA process and the NEPs.

Corps Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Continued coordination between OW, Region 4, and Region 6 regarding dredged material and ocean dumping sites potentially impacted by the oil spill.
- Shoaling and flocculation are being reported in SW Pass and three hopper dredges are working in the pass. The Corps is considering redirecting two of these dredges to work on the sand berm project and the Corps dredge, Wheeler, is expected to be repaired and dedicated to the berm project this week.
- The Corps is employing oil detection kits on the dredges, a technique coordinated with EPA and Corps research facilities during the 2008 Mississippi River oil spill. In addition, new ship decontamination sites have been established in the lower Mississippi River and Southwest Pass which may be within the area of influence of the EPA-designated ocean disposal site.
- Discussions are underway regarding marsh remediation efforts and initial agency coordination is occurring regarding monitoring the long-term landscape-scale coastal habitat impacts.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- Based upon the shoreline impact assessment map (Figure 3) and the EPA OSC shoreline cleanup efforts (Table 1), there have been no changes to the list of CWPPRA projects in the vicinity of oil impacted areas since 6/10/10.

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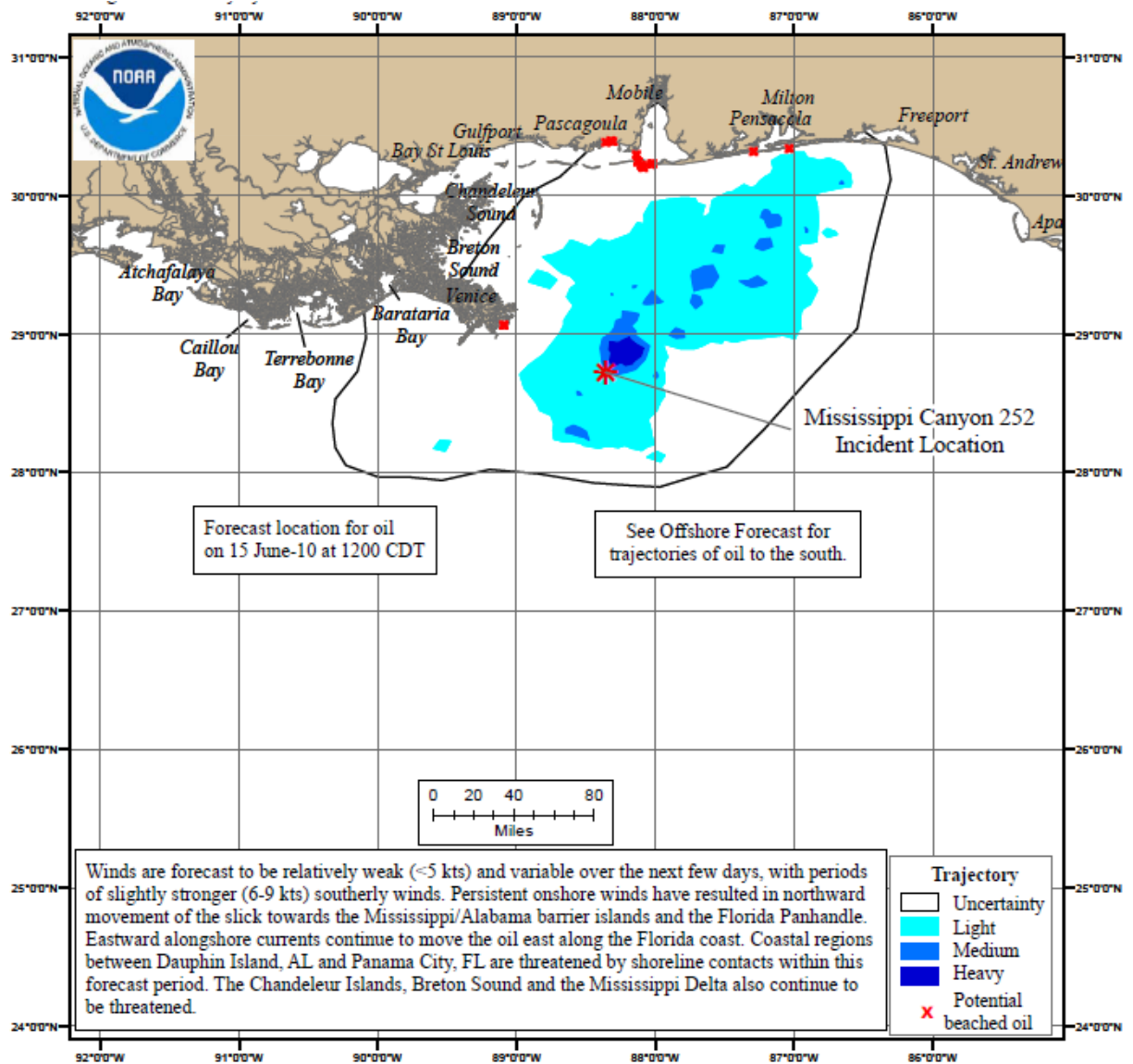


Figure 1. NOAA nearshore oil slick trajectory forecast for 6/14/10

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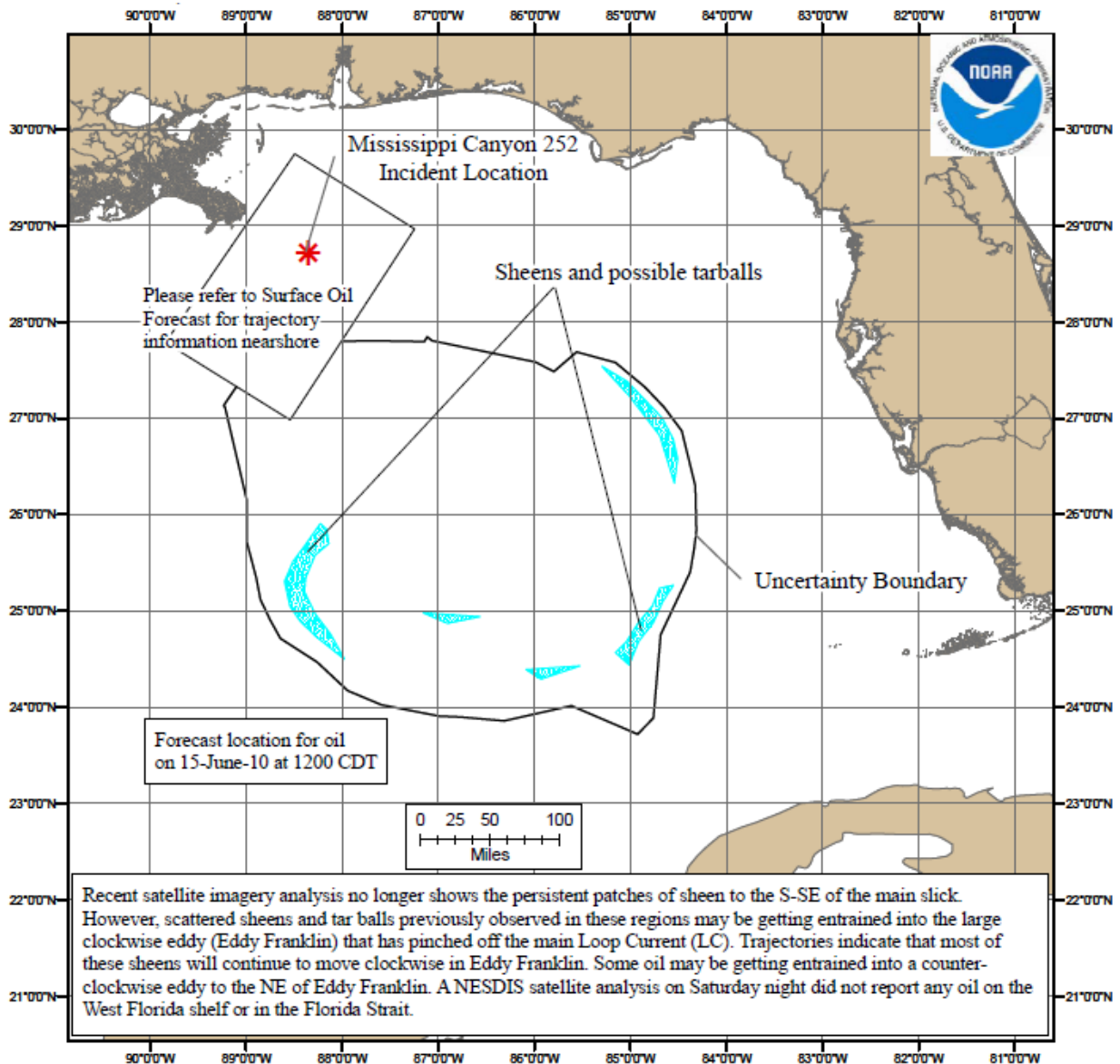


Figure 2. NOAA offshore oil slick trajectory forecast for 6/14/10.

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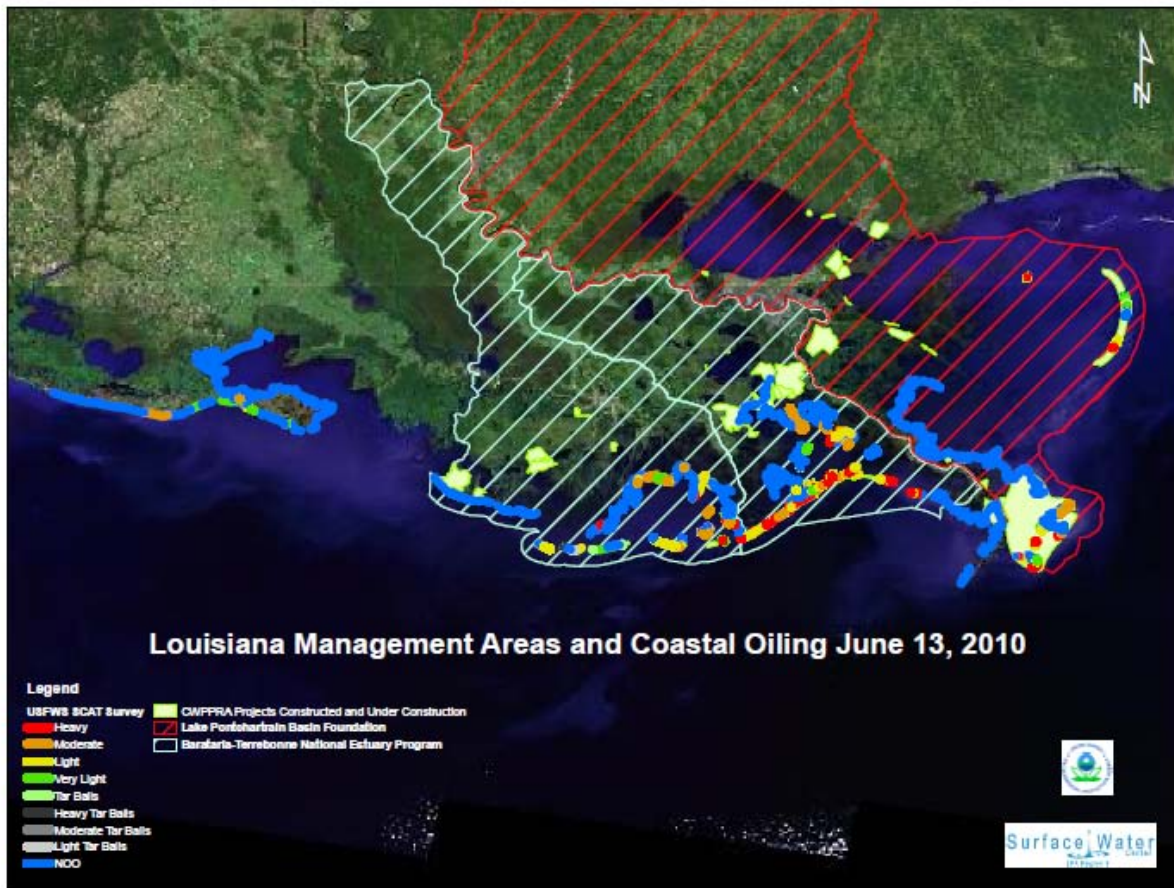


Figure 3. Oil impact assessment map including Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation boundaries, constructed CWPPRA projects and reported oiled shorelines.

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Shoreline Impact Area	Stage	Parish	Progress	Miles Impact
Southpass Inner Sandbar	Venice	Plaquemines	re-oiling; ongoing	2.78
Pilot Bayou/Johnson Pass	Venice	Plaquemines	using containment boom	1.5
Pass a L'outre/Red Fish Bay	Venice	Plaquemines	70%	4
Inner Area Southpass	Venice	Plaquemines	tbd	1.49
Chandeleur Island	Hopedale	St. Bernard	100%	7.2
Grand Isle/Elmer's Island	Grand Isle	Jefferson	re-oiling; ongoing	7.6
Isle Grande Terre	Grand Isle	Plaquemines	tbd	1.77
Brush Island	Hopedale	St. Bernard	100%	1.33
Lake Raccourci	Fourchon	LaFourche	tbd	0.8
Chenier Au Tigre	St. Mary	Vermillion	100%	0.7
Trinity Island	Cocodrie	Terrabone	100%	0.48
Fourchon Beach	Fourchon	LaFourche	tbd	3.75
Timbalier Bay	Fourchon	LaFourche	tbd	0.43
Lake Felicity	Cocodrie	Terrabone	ongoing	1
Marsh Island	St. Mary	Iberia	100%	0.4
Marsh Island	St. Mary	Iberia	100%	0.2
Chenier Ronquille	Grand Isle	Plaquemines	tbd	0.2485
Spartina Marsh	Grand Isle	Jefferson	tbd	0.2

Table 1. Deepwater Horizon shoreline impacts and status of cleanup. Information provided by EPA On Scene Coordinator web page. Created 6/14/10.